

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A utility knife tool comprising:
  - a) a handle with a distal portion;
  - b) a blade secured to and extending from said distal portion, said blade having a cutting edge;
  - c) a blade cover that moves between an operating position in which the blade is exposed, and a safety position in which at least the a cutting edge and a portion of a side of the blade is covered, and that is biased towards the safety position; and
  - d) a manually triggered self-locking release assembly, internal to the handle, that operates to unlock ~~unlocks~~ the cover when a finger-operated trigger is operated, so that the cover can be retracted, and operates to re-lock ~~re-engages~~ the locking assembly upon manual retraction of the cover, so that the cover automatically locks in place when the cover is returned to the safety position.
2. (Currently Amended) The utility knife tool of Claim 1 wherein the cover retracts into the handle.
3. (Currently Amended) The utility knife tool of Claim 2 wherein the cover and the trigger are each biased by springs.
4. (Currently Amended) The utility knife tool of Claim 2 wherein the release assembly is actuated by a trigger located on an inferior surface of the handle.
5. (Currently Amended) The utility knife tool of Claim 2 wherein the cover retracts linearly into the handle.
- 6-10. Canceled